

Change of Address

All next of kin officially listed for prisoners of war and civilian internees have the PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN addressed to them in the office of the Provost Marshal General. The same address to them in the Office of the Office of information and parcel labels from that office. Therefore, if next of kin inform the Provost Marshal General, War Department, Washington, D. C., of changes of address, the BULLETIN as well as official notices should reach them promptly. In advising of a change of address, next of kin should use the following form:

"I am officially listed as next of kin of Pfc. John Smith, prisoner of war No. 000 (or service serial number) held at

Camp....., Germany
or Camp....., Japan.

I have moved from.....
to..... and wish all
mail sent to me there."

If it is more convenient for next of kin, notice of change of address can be sent to the local Red Cross chapter.

Many names in addition to next of kin are on a separate Red Cross mailing list for the PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN. For those who are not next of kin, therefore, the following form should be used in advising the Red Cross (through the local chapter or by letter addressed to PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN, National Headquarters, American Red Cross, Washington 13, D. C.) of a change of address:

"I receive the PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN although I am not officially listed as next of kin of a prisoner of war. I have moved from.....
to..... and wish the BULLETIN sent to me there."

U. S. PRISONERS IN BULGARIA

Representatives of the Swiss government and the International Committee of the Red Cross on February 15-17 last visited the Bulgarian camp for American prisoners of war situated in the mountains about five miles from Choumen. These representatives, who were accompanied by Bulgarian officials, were permitted to talk freely with the prisoners individually and with their senior officer, First Lieutenant Darlington.

There were about 50 prisoners, all airmen. The camp near Choumen was formerly a convalescent home for Bulgarian soldiers. Only one sleeping room at the time of the visit was available for the prisoners, but a second one, to be used by officers, was promised. Various suggestions for the improvement of living conditions at the camp were made to the Bulgarian authorities, whose attention was particularly called to the obligations of the Bulgarian government as a signatory of the Geneva Prisoners of War Convention. Delegates felt that ignorance of the provisions of the Convention, rather than a disposition to treat the prisoners harshly, was responsible for most of the complaints.

Two wounded prisoners in the clinic at Choumen stated that they were being given good care, and the Delegates reported that the health of the other prisoners was good.

One immediate outcome of the visit was a promise by the camp commander that men would be permitted to write two letters a month.

A follow-up visit was arranged for, and presumably has since been made to see that improvements promised had been put into effect.

PACKAGING CENTERS

Regardless of heat and humidity, Red Cross volunteers in the Philadelphia, New York, and St. Louis centers have maintained an aggregate output throughout the summer of over 1,000,000 standard food packages a month. By the end of July the total output had almost reached the 15,000,000 mark.

The assembly line at the New York plant is now manned on Saturday afternoons chiefly by business girls who have joined the ranks of those who give up precious time to help American and Allied prisoners of war. Also at work in the New York plant is a group of Jersey City school teachers who have volunteered for the summer.

The special Christmas package for American prisoners of war and civilian internees in Europe is being made up in Packaging Center No. 1 at Philadelphia—not at New York, as was stated in the July BULLETIN.

COOKING GUIDE

A cook book, *The Prisoner of War Cooking Guide*, has been released by the Red Cross Nutrition Service for use in prisoner of war camps. The recipes were prepared on the basis of the contents of the standard food package and the vegetables which can be grown from the Red Cross garden packages sent to all camps in Germany containing American prisoners. The Cooking Guide is being sent through the International Red Cross directly to the camps, for distribution in sufficient number so that one guide can be supplied to each group of 25 men.

PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN

Published by the American National Red Cross for the Relatives of American Prisoners of War and Civilian Internees

2, NO. 9

WASHINGTON, D. C.

SEPTEMBER 1944

Reports from Camps in Germany

It has been reported that American prisoners of war captured in Germany were being assigned to Stalag XII A, at Limburg, "located a little north of a line between Cologne and Frankfurt/Main," and that several thousand men had already arrived there.

American prisoners have also been assigned recently to the new Stalag XII B at Teschen, on the former Polish-Czechoslovak frontier, and to Stalag Luft IV, which is in Pomerania near the Polish-German frontier. The designation of the old Stalag VIII B at Lamsdorf was changed to Stalag 344.

About 1,500 American noncommissioned airmen were reported in Stalag Luft IV at the end of June, the camp then being only in process of construction. Other new camps for Americans are given elsewhere in this issue under the heading "Map Changes."

Stalag II B

Recent information on conditions in the base camp, as well as among the work detachments outside, indicates a state of affairs at Stalag II B which is far from satisfactory. Action has been taken by the State Department on reported mistreatment of American prisoners. There are about 150 American work detachments (almost all agricultural) scattered throughout the large area covered by this Stalag, and the conditions under which some of these detachments live are very primitive. The men are also so widely scattered, with detachments varying in strength from a few prisoners to 60 or more, that it is impossible for representatives of the Protecting Power and the International Committee of the Red Cross to investigate fully all the complaints made by the men.

Much of the friction between American prisoners and their guards, as well as between the men and some of the individual Germans for whom they work, appears to have developed out of attempts to escape. A few prisoners at II B were shot while attempting to escape about a year ago. Next of kin were notified of these deaths.

Chronic overcrowding at the base camp, which contains French, Belgian, Italian, and Yugoslav as well as American prisoners of war; poor hospital facilities for the relatively high percentage of men at this camp needing proper medical care; and lack of adequate facilities for cooking, washing, and recreation — all

contribute to making conditions at II B a matter for much concern.

Stalag Luft III

A cable received in New York by War Prisoners' Aid of the YMCA on July 7 quoted the following message sent to Geneva by Colonel Spivey, senior American officer at Stalag Luft III:

A new 2,000-man compound has recently been opened and is rapidly being filled with Americans. It is known as the West Compound, and Colonel Darr H. Alkire is senior officer.

Our athletic program (at Center Compound) is now going full blast. Softball is by far the most popular



A group of American officers at Oflag 64, early in February. Top row left to right: Lt. William Guest, Capt. Stephen Kane, Lt. Robert Aschim, Lt. Anthony Cipriani, Lt. Frank Aten. Bottom row: Lt. Harold Tallman, Lt. Burrows, Lt. Henry Perry, Lt. Sid Waldman.

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game and our need for balls, bats, and gloves is almost unlimited. Even older officers play this game, and we have one team of senior officers with six colonels on it.

The entertainment program is good, and the theater is filled almost every day. Our compound has two well-loved ministers, a U. S. Army Protestant chaplain, and an English Army Roman Catholic padre.

School and reference books recently received have filled a need felt since the opening of the camp. They have enabled new classes to be started and vacancies to be filled. Our nonlending library is crowded all day long with eager prisoners.

Please accept our gratitude and thanks for all YMCA assistance.

The camp staff at the all-American West Compound is composed of officers transferred from the Center and South Compounds. Captain Harold Fulghum is responsible for the distribution of YMCA supplies.

A separate report from a Delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross who visited Luft III on May 22 stated that the camp was divided into six separate compounds—three American and three RAF. The latest report received by cable gave the number of American airman-prisoners at Luft III as about 3,500. The Americans occupy the Center, West, and South Compounds; the British the North, East, and Belaria Compounds.

A cabled report on the Delegate's visit stated that the supply of kitchen utensils at Luft III was insufficient (a complaint now common to most German camps), that the supply of potatoes was deficient, that fresh vegetables were lacking, and that the meat furnished the men contained an excess of bones. The camp, however, was well stocked with Red Cross packages, and, the report added, "the preparation of Red Cross food was normal except for the scarcity of kitchenware."

There were "well-established infirmaries" in the Center and East Compounds and a Lazarett with 105 beds. The newly arrived aviators at Luft III, the report stated, were receiving better care than in the Dulags (transit camps). Mail from the United States, "which is important for morale," was taking three to four months to reach the men at Luft III. The report, in conclusion, stated that discipline was severe since the attempted escapes "causing numerous deaths" from the North Compound, which is all RAF.

Stalag Luft VI

A recent report from War Prisoners' Aid of the YMCA stated that Sgt. James Deans (British) was the chief spokesman in Lager I at Stalag Luft VI, and that many noncommissioned airmen (British as well as American) had been transferred from Luft I to Luft VI. Luft VI was divided into several sections, or Lagers, each having its own spokesman, but with Sergeant Deans acting as spokesman for the entire Stalag. F/Sgt. Francis Pauls (American) was spokesman for Lager 2, and Sgt. Victor Clarke for Lager 3. Except through the spokesmen, no contact was permitted between the different sections. All relief supplies for the camp were distributed through the spokesman's office in Lager 1.

Note: A late report by cable from Geneva stated that Stalag Luft VI was being closed and the Americans there transferred to Stalag Luft IV.

Stalag VII A

At the end of June there were reported to be about 1,000 American prisoners of war at Stalag VII A—the senior American officer being Maj. R. W. Crandall and the American camp spokesman T/Sgt. R. S. Mintz. The name of Capt. P. C. Grafagnino was given as the senior American medical officer.

Stalag VII A, located at Moosburg, near the former German-Austrian border, had separate sections divided by barbed wire for officers and men. The camp also contained a large number of British prisoners. Most of the enlisted men at VII A were assigned to work detachments outside the base camp. Living conditions in the work detachments were recently reported to be much better than at the Stalag.

Most of the Americans in VII A at the end of May had been captured in Italy, or had been transferred to Germany from Italian camps. They included officers, non-coms, and enlisted men. Recent arrivals were quarantined and deloused in the North Compound before admittance to the main camp. Stalag VII A has been kept well supplied with British and American Red Cross food packages; but, as in most German camps containing Americans, overcrowding was causing many complaints.

Stalag XVII B

A report prepared in June by T/Sgt. Alexander M. Haddon, educational director at the American compound in Stalag XVII B, listed the names of fellow-prisoners who

were taking an active part in the educational programs for American prisoners in this Stalag.

The listed included S/Sgt. William A. Ford (mathematics), S/Sgt. Leonard Sversky (business law), T/Sgt. James McKinlay (shorthand), T/Sgt. William Pederson (commercial geography), T/Sgt. H. M. Crain (economics), Azzan McKagan (American history), S/Sgt. Juan Gutierrez (Spanish), T/Sgt. Jean Duhamel (French), S/Sgt. Adolf Blum (German), T/Sgt. Charles Kirby (English), T/Sgt. Truman T. Talledge (auto mechanics), S/Sgt. Ned R. Herzstam (music), T/Sgt. John L. Zusan and T/Sgt. Norris Miller (photography), S/Sgt. Gerard J. McKenna, T/Sgt. Edward Truscott, T/Sgt. John Hughes, Sgt. Thomas C. Calhoun, and S/Sgt. William D. King (librarians).

Stalag XVII B was opened in October 1943, most of the Americans now there being non-coms who were transferred from Stalag VII A. Many of them had reached Stalag VII A from Italy. A great deal has been accomplished during the past year in helping the men to plan for post-war educational and vocational activities; but otherwise conditions at Stalag XVII B, according to the latest reports from Geneva, are still far from satisfactory. This camp is now being visited frequently, and the men's complaints are being actively investigated.

Stalag XVIII C (317)

When visited by a Delegate of the International Committee on June 23, Stalag XVIII C (which also carries the designation Stalag 317) had a total strength of about 11,000 prisoners of war, of whom 56 were American. Most of the Americans had come from Italy, and for them XVIII C was apparently intended only as a transit camp.

Conditions at XVIII C were reported by the Delegate to be generally satisfactory, and discipline good. A special kitchen had been organized for the approximately 600 British prisoners at XVIII C, and this was presumably shared by the Americans.

Oflag 64

A report from Col. Thomas D. Drake, senior American officer, stated that 2,431 letters and 1,857 post cards were mailed during May by American prisoners of war at Oflag 64. During the same month, 4,361 letters were delivered, the transit time having averaged 98 days.

The number of American prisoners at Oflag 64 on June 1 was slightly over 500, but the number has since increased by transfers from other camps. The camp's reserve of Cross food packages on that numbered 4,445, or about an weeks' supply at the rate of one package per man per week.

Lazarettts

There are now a score or more Lazarettts scattered throughout Germany, and many in German-occupied countries, where wounded American prisoners of war are hospitalized. Most of these wounded Americans are airmen, and, as soon as they have sufficiently recovered, they are sent to the Oberursel internment center, then to the new Luft transit camp at Wetzlar, Koblenz, preparatory to being shipped to a "permanent" camp. The ordinary course of events, the seriously wounded cases are brought to the notice of the Mixed Medical Commission with a view to repatriation. Wounded airmen in occupied territories are usually moved to Lazarettts inside Germany as soon as they are fit to travel.

Lazarettts housing prisoners of war are visited from time to time by representatives of the Protecting Power (Switzerland) and by Delegates of the International Red Cross, in the same way that camps are visited. Complete reports on the Lazarettts, the names of the patients undergoing treatment, and the nature of their wounds, in due course, are furnished to the interested governments and Red Cross societies.

Recent reports have emphasized that prisoners of war in hospitals are treated in every respect in the manner as German patients, except that armed guards are posted in prisoners' wards. When Swiss representatives visit the Lazarettts, they are permitted to talk with each patient individually. Some of the Lazarettts now housing wounded Americans are among the finest and best equipped military hospitals in Germany, according to these reports.

Red Cross food and invalid supplies are sent from Geneva to all Lazarettts containing Allied prisoners.

TOOTH POWDER

A report from Stalag Luft III states that a number of weak containers of tooth powder in next-of-kind parcels break in transit and spoil the items in the parcels.

TRANSPORT PROBLEMS

Land operations in France and Italy and the intensified bombing of Europe in recent months have had certain inevitable consequences. There has been a substantial increase in the number of American prisoners of war; the activities of the French underground had seriously disrupted rail transport and virtually closed the Mediterranean as the main artery for Red Cross supplies to reach the warehouses of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Switzerland; and the growing strain on transportation in Germany has impeded the flow of supplies from Switzerland to the camps. To these and other difficulties may soon be added the wholesale transfer of prisoners from camps in eastern Europe that lie in the path of the advancing Russian armies.

The American Red Cross foresaw months ago that serious transport and distribution problems lay ahead, and, with the wholehearted cooperation of the Swiss, built up large reserves of food packages and other supplies in Switzerland and in the camps where most of the American prisoners were held. But there are now fifty or more camps in Europe, and probably as many hospitals, housing American prisoners.

Moreover, a three months' reserve of supplies in a camp holding two or three thousand men quickly disappears when the number of prisoners is doubled within a very few weeks. New camps, particularly for airmen, have been established and rapidly filled without any advance warning so that an ample reserve of supplies could be built up. In consequence, some camps where the American strength was greatly increased may have had their supplementary reserves reduced, and in a few cases there were temporary interruptions in the distribution of food packages. In one or two such camps, where the German rations

had been cut because of what was regarded as an excessive amount of Red Cross supplies, the rations were recently restored to normal.

Every possible effort has been made, and will of course continue to be made, to get adequate supplementary supplies to the camps both from the stocks still available in Switzerland and through other routes that are being opened because of the closing of Marseille as the main European port of entry for prisoner of war shipments. It will be appreciated, however, that on continents aflame with war from end to end the unmolested movements of shipping through combat zones must be discussed and arranged with foes as well as with Allies and neutrals. Such arrangements take considerable time to work out.

The same factors retarding the flow of relief supplies to the camps also apply to the receipt and dispatch of mail. Here the American postal authorities and all the interested Red Cross societies are doing their utmost to keep the mails moving with reasonable promptness; but relatives will understand that with the intensification of military operations the mail service, like the Red Cross supply service, will have increasingly serious handicaps to overcome. And if, as now seems likely, large transfers of prisoners from eastern Europe to the interior of Germany have taken or are taking place, the effect on mail will undoubtedly be felt. Despite all the efforts of the American and Swiss authorities to meet these new problems, temporary interruptions in the receipt and dispatch of mail may occur.

Many next of kin have inquired whether they should continue sending parcels and mail to prisoners held in Germany. Our advice is unreservedly that they should.

Gilbert Redfern, Editor.

Report on Taiwan Camps

By John Cotton

A Delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross made a second visit* to the Taiwan (Formosa) camps early in June 1944. He reported that there were nearly 2,400 United Nations prisoners of war in six camps and that 235 of these were Americans. Most of the Americans were in Camp IV, which was an officers' camp. Three of the highest ranking U. S. Army officers were held at Camp V along with a few British and Dutch high army officers and government officials. At Camp III and Camp VI there were a few Americans with large numbers of British prisoners, but Camps I and II contained only British.

Camps IV and V were relatively new camps, replacing those at Karenko and Tamazato which had been closed since the Delegate's visit in the previous year. The Delegate was not permitted to specify the location of the new camps.

Three meals were served daily, the basic food being rice, with bread served occasionally. The Delegate stated the rations were larger than for Japanese civilians. The daily rice ration was between 570 and 708 grams (20 to 25 ounces). A small

amount of meat was served, plus supplements from livestock and chickens being raised by the prisoners. Other foods supplied were fat for cooking, potatoes and other vegetables, fruit in season, sugar, sweets on holidays, salt, tea, coffee. The Delegate reported the daily caloric value of the diet to be 2,800. Patients were said to receive a special diet of milk, eggs, soup, starch, and fruit.

At the end of April there were reported to be 216 officers and men on the sick list (about 10 percent of the total number). This was less than half the number reported to be sick a year earlier. The average weight of all prisoners had increased from 129 pounds in June 1943 to 134½ pounds in April 1944, according to the report.

Seven hours' work daily was required of noncoms and enlisted men. The officers at Camp IV performed farm work two to three hours daily. Pay could be spent at canteens, which sold some food and a few other items. Religious services were held in English.

At the time of the visit the camp commanders were listing the names of prisoners who had not received any word from home, and these

names were to be cabled to Geneva by the Delegate.

Relief supplies shipped last fall on the *Gripsholm* arrived on May 5 and had been completely distributed by the time of the Delegate's visit. These supplies consisted of 3,640 special 13-pound food packages; 63 cases of medical supplies, including about 200,000 vitamin tablets; 525 sets of heavy clothing; shoes; toilet articles; tobacco; religious materials, etc.

The Delegate was able to interview representatives of the prisoners in each of the camps he visited. At Camp V General Wainwright stated that he found conditions as good as can be reasonably expected. He stated that the relief supplies received were useful but that more canned food and warm clothing would be appreciated. Other prisoners interviewed also expressed the need for more relief supplies and better mail service. General Beebe at Camp IV stated that because the diet was deficient in protein and fat, one food parcel a month was needed for each prisoner. A need for towels, socks, raincoats, and toilet articles was expressed by Captain Scholes at Camp III.

The needs of prisoners held in Japan are fully understood by the United States government and the American Red Cross. The continuous efforts to establish a route for the regular shipment of relief to the Far East have been reported in PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN. The fact that no further announcement has yet been made about the shipment of supplies through a Soviet Pacific port does not mean that this matter is not being followed up vigorously.

AMERICANS IN HONG KONG

The Delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Hong Kong recently reported that he had been able to send monthly packages of food to 19 Americans held in a Hong Kong prisoner of war camp. The packages delivered in the month of November 1943, according to the Delegate's report, contained fresh eggs, sugar, salted leeks, fried fish, bananas, oranges, sausages, tomato sauce, maize flour, and bran.

All but one of the American prisoners in Hong Kong are officers and men of the vessel *Admiral Y. S. Williams*. Besides food packages, they were also receiving pocket-money allowances. Funds provided by the United States government were used to pay for the food packages and the allowances.

Relatives' Meetings

help each other, and, in turn, are helped themselves.

Getting Together

Perhaps one of the most lasting benefits which come from these meetings is that relatives get to know each other. When six or seven next of kin of prisoners in Stalag XVII B, for example, get together and compare letters, it is fairly certain that these people will meet again and again. Whether they meet in the future under the auspices of the Red Cross or the YMCA is unimportant; what is important is that now they know each other and get together often.

The meetings are useful in other ways, too. Relatives of long-time prisoners have perhaps run out of ideas about what to put in their next-of-kin parcels, while the family of a newly captured prisoner wants the best possible advice on what to include in the first parcel. An exchange of ideas and experiences can be most helpful.

Typical of a next-of-kin meeting was one held recently in a chapter in upper New York state. The solemnity of the occasion was marked by the faces of the relatives as they filed into the auditorium. A great common bond had brought them there that night—all had sons, brothers, or husbands who were prisoners of war in Europe or the Far East.

At the information desk, mothers and fathers paused to look at the large framed maps showing the locations of camps. A little farther on relatives saw, many of them for the first time, the Red Cross food packages which are mentioned so frequently in prisoners' letters. Near the food packages was a photograph of the "capture" parcel. Many relatives had not known there were such things; they expressed surprise and gratitude for them. Many of them had wondered what the men did for such necessities as razors and toothbrushes and towels before they received them from home or obtained them through the International Red Cross.

Addressing Meetings

When all the people were seated, the meeting was called to order. The speaker from Red Cross national headquarters, herself the mother of

a prisoner of war, gave the background of the Geneva Convention and described how the American Red Cross works through the International Committee to deliver food, clothing, medicines, and other supplies. This information was followed by specific items of late news about various camps.

Following the Red Cross speaker, a representative of War Prisoners' Aid of the YMCA described from firsthand experience the camps in Germany he had visited, and told the audience of the work of the "Y" in getting books and musical instruments and sports equipment to the camps. But the highlight of that evening was a description of life in a German prisoner of war camp by a repatriated prisoner. Following the speeches, the listeners were urged to ask any questions which occurred to them. At all relatives' meetings arranged by the Red Cross, the speakers make every effort to answer as many questions as possible. For the questions left over, answers are prepared and sent by mail from the chapter to those questioners who have given their names and addresses.

Other Red Cross chapters throughout the country have different methods of handling relatives' meetings. In many cases, they are divided into Far Eastern and European, meeting on different nights so that a greater degree of specialized information may be introduced, while in communities where there are a large number of relatives the "breakdown" extends to camps. The relatives of men in Stalag II B, for instance, have more directly in common with each other than they have with the relatives of men in Stalag Luft III. The over-all picture may affect all prisoners alike, but life and conditions in a work camp for enlisted men can be altogether different from those in a Luftwaffe camp for airmen.

FOOD COVERS

Food covers have been suggested by repatriated prisoners of war as useful and inexpensive items to include in next-of-kin parcels. Pieces of gauze or mosquito netting or small cotton napkins would meet the need. Incidentally, these small pieces make good fillers for the loose space in next-of-kin parcels.



Workers in Shanghai office of the International Red Cross forwarding parcels to civilian internees held in the old U. S. Marine barracks at Haiphong Road.

Receipts for Supplies

The collective receipt, on the top, contains a number, the date of dispatch of the goods from Switzerland, the consignment number, the nationality of the prisoners for whom the shipment is intended, and the address and code number of the camp. In the center part of the camp spokesman's receipt, on the left side, the following information is given: origin, shipment, code number, name and quantity of parcels,

It usually takes about four or five months for these receipt cards to reach Washington from European camps, which means that almost a year elapses between the shipping of a food package on a Red Cross vessel from Philadelphia and the return to Washington of the receipt card which the volunteer worker at one of the packaging centers placed in the package.

This supplement is being sent to all those who receive PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN, as well as to Red Cross chapters throughout the United States and should arrive a week or so after the September BULLETIN.

Letters

From Far Eastern Camps

Java

Undated

(Received at Amarillo, Texas,
March 29, 1944)

Dear Mother and Father:

I have received permission from the Japanese authorities to again write about my life here in Java. I am one of the camp cooks. We prepare the daily rations of food. We receive meat, potatoes, and vegetables which we make into a (samoe?) which is very tasty. I would like, though, to get some of the food which was for the family meals while I was at home.

My work is not too hard. It helps me pass the time away before the war is finished and I am again able to be home with you all.

I want to thank you very much for your kind action in sending me the very useful package. I wonder how Dad and his work are going on nowadays. Please do not worry about me for in all ways but my desire to see you again I am all right.

I haven't as yet received a letter from you all. But other prisoners are getting letters, and so I think in the near future I may receive one from you. Please, from time to time write me so that I will be sure to receive a letter from you.

I do want the war out here to end very soon so that we can be sent back home to our loved ones. It is very difficult to find an interesting topic on which to write about, for I know the conditions at home have changed very much since I last saw you. Also, life here is about the same every day. The Japanese Red Cross Society has been very helpful to us because their office makes it possible for us to write home. Time is always my enemy for I see I must go back to my old waiting and hoping for a quick relief. Please write soon to your loving son.

Zentsuji War Prison Camp, Japan
December 1943

(Received at Washington, D. C.,
August 9)

Dear Mother:

Message No. 8. During past few weeks have received 12 letters, latest being your No. 33 of Sept. 12. You can't imagine how much pleasure they give me. Thank Dotec for her two. Mail and packages which arrived on exchange ship are still being distributed and I should receive your package in the next few days. It will certainly be the grandest Christmas present I ever had. Two more letters will make your series from 20 to 33 complete. To answer a few of your questions: Bassett, Wilson, and I are the only Pope personnel in this camp. Regret that I can give you no additional information on others. There are 29 English, Dutch, Australian, and American officers in my room, and, as you suspect, I have made a number of friends among the nearly 700 residents here. Jake Vandergrift, Mead Willis, Hugh Mellon, Ed Wood, and Joe Martin are some of the naval officers. Yes, I have gained weight since that picture was taken—all the way to 140 pounds. Since someone would mention bridge, I'll admit that I have become rather proficient. Have read 135 assorted books in my spare time in addition to daily paper and weekly magazine. From your letters I judge that getting married has become a national pastime. Hope there will be a few eligible

girls left. Give my love to the family.—Flash—Your box arrived Dec. 13. It exceeds my fondest expectations.

(A postcard from the above prisoner, dated January 25, read: "Since signing my letter, I have received 15 of your earlier communications, 7 on my birthday (January 18). Am still enjoying your parcel. I have heard from Michel, but regret that I cannot answer questions of other mothers who have written." Lieut. J. J. A. Michel, referred to in this communication, was an officer on the U. S. S. Pope who was transferred from a camp in Java to one on the Japanese mainland. The writer of the above letter has increased in weight from 125 to 140 pounds since he reached Zentsuji about two years ago.)

Zentsuji, Japan

December 1943

(Received at Anniston, Alabama,
July 31, 1944)

My Dearest Mother:

Words can't express my happiness in receiving your first letter, dated 23rd August, and one from Mrs. Stoy, on Thanksgiving Day. I'm expecting the package any day now. Many thanks. Camp life is same as I've mentioned. I'm in the best of health and time passes quickly. We're planning for a big Christmas. Did you hear my broadcast to you over Radio Tokyo?

Mother, my thoughts are ever with you and I hope we'll be together soon. Letters mean much; write often; tell my friends to do same; and send some pictures as I have none. I'll be thinking of everyone this Christmas. Love and best wishes to all, especially you.

From European Camps

Oflag 64

February 20

Dear Family:

Last week a couple of guys and myself started a "mart" here in camp. Every parcel day there is a lot of trading of food and a lot of variation in the values. So we set a price in points on all food and cigarettes, and opened a store for two hours a day where a person can turn in or take out items at their points' value. It works very well, and is also something to keep us occupied. Powdered milk is tops at 150 points; coffee is 110 points; jam (British) is 80 points; first grade cigarettes are 15 points a pack. All Red Cross items are valued,

BACK NUMBERS

The relatives of newly reported prisoners of war frequently desire to see back numbers of Prisoners of War Bulletin, and all Red Cross chapters have previously been urged to keep at least one complete set on file. Several cases have recently been reported of relatives visiting a chapter only to find that a complete file of Bulletins was not being kept.

Some issues of Volume I are now out of print, but copies of Volume II (from January 1944 on) may still be obtained from area offices or by writing direct to Prisoners of War Bulletin at national headquarters.

and lots of private parcel items—such as gum, 10 points a pack; vitamin pills, points apiece; ovaline 110 points, etc. Not to say, cost of the original article less to say, but only its need here.

I went skating for the second time today. It was good fun, and the sun was shining so brightly we weren't cold at all.

Mail is very slow lately, but I know we are all fine, though I am anxious to get some more photos.

Stalag Luft III

(Received at Seattle, Wash.,
May 1944)

Dear Folks:

Yours Sept. 23, Oct. 20-26, Nov. 6. As first year of German military imprisonment draws to a close, I can look back on unhappy months and recall definite stages through which all American prisoners of war seem to struggle. When first arrives at this fantastic place of barbed wire and armed sentry towers, the American "Kriegie" is fresh from the enthusiasm of stupendous scientific combat. Suddenly deprived of his weapons and military, he retains his enthusiasm and is hopelessly optimistic. The war will end within three months! He lazily loafs, licking his fresh wounds, tells and listens to his raising "there I wuz" stories. After a month time begins to drag. He gets the education bug. He takes up German, French, psychology, math, and animal husbandry. Three months pass, the war progresses on its own slow fashion, and time really begins to creep. He is still optimistic. Home to Christmas!

Crowded quarters discourage scholarly concentration. Classes taught by inexperienced fellow prisoners fail to make time pass quickly. He turns to reading and entertainment, activities such as state debates, choirs, dramatic, and camp plays. Time passes a little faster because these activities occupy both mind and energy.

Christmas arrives. The war plods onward. The disappointed prisoner of war in mind shifts gears. Instead of predicting, begins to wonder when it will end. Entire year passes and barbed wire pens him in. Now he expects nothing but merely waits. Like a Chinese philosopher, he patiently waits. Some day, the war must end.

Stalag Luft III

March 5, 1944

Dear Mom:

Spring and a "promise" aren't very far off now. Our spirits are very high, and with all our song-fests, cutting up, and sports exhibitions, swing band, meetings, quiz shows, debates, sports, etc. We sometimes carry on far into the night, but might as well get all the fun we can, when the opportunity arises. I just read "Time We Live," by Ursula Parrott, and sure made me feel old. I still get a lot out of the church service. I'm getting used to the pastor, who is English. Today was listening to an accordionist, who played all the songs the Lantzes used to play. We do our own laundry, but there's no one to criticize the "tattle-tale-gray." We've had some delightful snowstorms. I still hope everything at home is O. K.

Stalag Luft III

March 5, 1944

Dear Mother, Dad, and Sisters,
Just a few lines to let you know how I am. O. K. and no longer in the hospital, but

prisoner camp. There are nine Americans here, one Englishman, so there isn't a dull moment, as you can guess. Some of the boys knew my buddies at radio and gunnery school, so we've had some interesting conversations. One of the boys is from Ohio. So we have a lot in common.

I give my regards to everyone and remember some bright day I'll be home again.

Stalag Luft III

April 7
(Received at Washington, D. C.,
July 18)

Mother and Father:

More mail has come, but each day I feel more hopeful. A group of new POW's arrived here only recently. It may be my situation but they seem so young. We read the German newspapers and follow on the progress of Uncle Joe and we're wondering what, if anything, Uncle Joe is going to do. Now that the days are going longer and somewhat warmer we spend more time out of doors, which is a good thing. Tempers are not so short. Life here has few changes. The group of new POW's brought lots of news and some had been in the States a month or so ago.

I am sure to send clothing and also a pair of shoes in my parcels. My study of Norwegian is going slowly. There is not such a great deal of news to write about from end. The books that you have sent me have been a great success. I very much enjoyed "Thunderhead" and "The Ivory

Extracts from Letters

Far Eastern

Card from a prisoner in Camp Hoten, Burma, received in Brooklyn on July 11, read in part: "Received four letters this package. Overjoyed to receive them."

Corporal at Osaka Camp, Japan, wrote his family in Birmingham, Michigan, in April: "I celebrate each memorable occasion. I give you all a little closer. Shove another log up to the table for I'm coming home. Say and see you and Dad are made here and happy permanently."

A broadcast message from an American prisoner at Taiwan on March 14 acknowledged a telegram from his wife sent on February 19, 1944.

On January 24, an American ensign at Zentsuji wrote to his mother at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania: "Received five more letters from you, dated April-May. Received packet sent on Grisholm last fall] on January 24, greatly enjoyed."

A reader in Washington, D. C., who sent a cable through the Red Cross last February to his daughter interned in Manila received a cable on July 19 replying to the message.

European

A letter from Stalag III B received in Columbia, South Carolina, on July 13 said in part: "The last time we got parcels from home I got nine cartons of cigarettes and a parcel. It was very welcome, too. The Red Cross cards are much in demand as every prisoner will receive a deck of cards in his Red Cross Christmas package."



Group of unidentified American prisoners at Stalag III B. Sent by Pvt. Seymour Rayack, second from left in front row.

once a month we see one walk down a road a couple of hundred yards out of camp."

From an American airman's camp in Germany an officer wrote in March to his family in Ohio, "People back home seem to be laboring under a misapprehension. Through the medium of the Red Cross and other organizations your conception of our home here has been distorted. We are not living in a 'Cabin in the Pines.' The height of something or other was reached the other day when one of the fellows received a book entitled 'The Bride's War Economy Cook Book,' or something like that. It is a very nice book and would be fine for a bride in the States. However, in looking over the recipes, we found that none of them could be used because of a lack of certain ingredients. Please don't worry about these cracks. I'm in a bad mood today. (See if you can get this published.)"

An airman at Luft III wrote to a friend in Washington in April, "Articles I could use: wire cutters, shovel, pick, old balloon with several tubes of hydrogen, time bomb, pistol, helicopter, smoke bomb, and a few other minor articles."

A private at Stalag III B wrote to the Red Cross on April 21, 1944: "... Dignity is a matter of appetite; and you keep us proud. When the debacle is over, I think few men in retrospect will hold anything much dearer than the memory of a simple cardboard carton which has emblazoned the symbol of the crimson cross indelibly on their hearts. God bless and perpetuate you. We send our snappiest salute."

In a letter to his wife at Jersey City, New Jersey, received August 2, the senior American officer at Stalag Luft III wrote: "The Red Cross has sent us summer clothes (khaki) so now we are all set for warm weather. They have also sent seeds for our gardens, and we are busy planting. It gives us work. I have had more than 99 percent of all my men well at all times." This letter was written on April 20.

In another letter dated "Good Friday" Colonel Spivey wrote: "Today ends Lent so I am reminded that such things as festivals, dances, and happiness still exist in this world. I wish it were possible for me to personally tell every citizen what a blessing and heritage he has and to impress on him his duty to cherish them. I feel particularly comforted by Easter because of its assurance that nothing can defeat the purpose of God—not even death."

SPECIAL SERVICES FOR PRISONERS

Among the activities of the American Red Cross, through the International Committee of the Red Cross, with respect to relief to prisoners of war are optical, dental, and orthopedic services.

In all European prisoner of war camps, the Detaining Power provides eye examination service. The prescriptions written by the camp optometrist are sent to the Mixed Committee of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies in Geneva where a large pool of glasses has been established for filling these prescriptions. Should the pool be unable to fill a special prescription for an American prisoner of war, the Geneva representative of the American Red Cross has instructions to procure the glasses in Switzerland and send them to the prisoner.

While the Detaining Power is supposed to provide all medical and surgical supplies needed for the treatment of prisoners of war, recent reports have indicated a shortage of certain drugs, bandages, and surgical instruments in some German camps. In order that American prisoners of war might not suffer from lack of these, the American Red Cross has sent medical and surgical supplies valued at more than \$100,000 to the International Committee for distribution as needed in hospitals where Americans are being treated. Should special medicines be required, the American Red Cross representative at Geneva has blanket authority to purchase them in Switzerland if possible. In addition, standard medical kits are provided for first aid use in all camps where Americans are held.

Each camp usually has its own dentist. This dentist may be a German, or an American, or another Allied dentist who is a prisoner of war. Here, too, shortages have been reported, and the American Red Cross has shipped dental supplies valued at approximately \$12,000 to the International Committee for distribution wherever needed. If special dental treatment is required by an American prisoner of war, it is paid for out of a revolving fund established by the American Red Cross with its representative at Geneva.

(Continued on page 12)



Noncommissioned officers, prisoners of war at Stalag Luft III. Sent by Cpl. Jack Rigney, second from left, top row.

MAIL SERVICE

The *M. S. Gripsholm*, on another exchange mission, left New York on August 23 carrying about 12,000 sacks of mail and next-of-kin parcels. This shipment should reach the Swedish port of Göteborg on September 8, and from there be transferred to a north German port.

The *Mangalore* and *Travancore* left the United States in July for Marseille carrying over 2500 sacks of mail and next-of-kin parcels. As they could not unload at Marseille, due to disturbances in southern France, these two ships with their Red Cross cargoes and mail were rerouted from the Mediterranean to Sweden and were due to reach Göteborg early in September. Their cargoes and mail are likewise to be transferred to a north German port.

As a further facility for movement of Red Cross goods and mail, the American Red Cross has procured a fleet of 50 heavy trucks. These are now on their way to Europe to be turned over to the International Committee of the Red Cross to carry goods and mail from Spanish or French ports into Switzerland, as soon as a route can be opened through southern France.

Air mail to Europe is still functioning normally, but there are increasing delays in censorship in Europe because the number of German prisoners, and also of

Allied prisoners, is greatly increasing the volume of mail.

In any case, continue to write regularly—and not too lengthily, if you wish to avoid bottlenecks in foreign censorship. And send your next-of-kin parcel to Europe as soon as you receive your label.

The United States government, the Post Office Department, and the American Red Cross are constantly doing everything possible to keep the channels for mail and packages open to Europe.

Airplane service for mail to the Far East also continues to function regularly via Tehran. Mail is flown from here to Tehran and then goes by rail and water to Japan and other Far Eastern points. The Japanese request "no individual next-of-kin parcels," but the 24-word messages can be sent by air as often as you wish to write.

A large shipment of mail from American prisoners in the Far East also reached the United States late in July on the *S. S. Stavros* from Europe. This mail came via Switzerland. Although only a relatively few cards and letters were dated, most of them appeared to have been written between October 1943 and February 1944. Only a few cards from civilians were included in this shipment, but almost all the prisoners of war camps containing Americans were represented.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

My husband is a prisoner of war at Oflag 64, in former Poland. When the Russians occupy that territory, what will become of him?

Based on last year's experiences in Sicily and Italy, and on recent reports from Eastern Galicia, the assumption is that the German authorities will move prisoners of war in advance of the entry of Allied forces. A year ago when American prisoners were transferred from Italy to Germany several months elapsed before new "permanent" camp addresses were received.

My son, an American prisoner in Germany at Stalag Luft VI, Lager 2, tells me to address letters to him at Stalag Luft III. Why is this, and what should I put on the envelope?

All letters for airmen are censored at Stalag Luft III and should be addressed there. If the prisoner is in another camp, however, that address should also be given in brackets. It is probable that your son, since you last heard from him, has been transferred to Stalag Luft IV, as Luft VI has been closed. Presumably mail already sent to Stalag Luft III (Stalag Luft VI) will be delivered to Luft IV. Next-of-kin parcels should be addressed direct to the camp where the prisoner is held, and not to Stalag Luft III.

Is there a Japanese prison camp called Niigata? If so, could you please give me some information about it? I have never seen it mentioned in the BULLETIN.

The United States government was informed recently that a prisoner of war camp at Niigata, belonging to the Tokyo group of camps and located on the north coast of the main island of Japan, north of Tokyo, was opened about a year ago. It is understood to contain American prisoners from the Philippines, and British, Canadian, and Dutch prisoners from Hong Kong. The number of Americans in this Niigata camp is reported to be about 200, including a few officers. No visits by International Red Cross Dele-

gates to the camp have been reported.

Q. Do our men know their rights as prisoners of war?

A. The Army now supplies men at the front with a booklet entitled "If You Should Be Captured." It explains briefly the rights of prisoners, and tells them to ask their captors for copies of the Geneva Convention, in English, so that they may know all their rights.

Q. I was presented with an "Air Corps" medal for my son in a German prisoner of war camp. Would it be all right to tell him about it in a letter?

A. Because of censorship regulations concerning military matters, it will not be advisable for you to tell your son about his medal.

Q. Is it permissible for a woman in the service (Wac, WAVE, etc.) to write to a prisoner of war? If so, may she give her address, tell of her work, where stationed, and the like?

A. A woman in the service may write to a prisoner of war, but she should not mail the letter from an army or navy post. Nor should she mention her work in any way, or even the fact that she is in the service. She should write on plain letter paper, and take or send the letter outside the post to be mailed. A civilian address should be given as her return address on the envelope.

Q. My son has sent a card from Stalag Luft III stating that he is a POW, well and uninjured. Is there any chance of his being exchanged?

A. No. Able-bodied prisoners of war are not exchanged before the cessation of hostilities. The exchanges of which you have heard are principally of civilian internees or of seriously sick and wounded prisoners of war. Provision is made in the Geneva Prisoners of War Convention for the repatriation of seriously sick and wounded prisoners of war, while the Geneva Red Cross Convention provides in certain circumstances for the repatriation of medical and other "protected" personnel.

Q. My brother is a sergeant in the Air Force, now held at Stalag Luft III. I notice we can send him in our next-of-kin package "standard photograph records and needles." Are there enough record players available for the enlisted men at this camp so that these are good items to include? Also, are there any types of records that cannot be sent?

A. Stalag Luft III is one of the older and well-established camps, so it is probable that record players would be available and records much appreciated. They must, of course, be very carefully packed. The same sort of censorship is given to records as to books, so the same sort of matter would probably be forbidden by the German censors. It is necessary to avoid any questionable material (for instance, patriotic songs), in order that the continued sending of records may not be endangered. The latest song hits are much liked by the men, but, because of the censorship problem, they should not have a military or patriotic theme.

Q. In a letter from a prison camp in Germany my son refers to the "Man of Confidence." What does he mean?

A. "Man of Confidence" is the literal translation of *Homme de Confiance* used in the French text of the Geneva Prisoners of War Convention. The *Homme de Confiance* is the elected representative of the prisoners in a camp containing enlisted men, or the senior officer in an officers' camp. The Germans refer to him as the *camp spokesman*; and the British often call him the *camp captain*. Regardless of his military rank, the camp spokesman in a German Stalag (even if it contains officer-prisoners) represents all the prisoners of his nationality in relations with the German authorities, the Protecting Power, and welfare agencies.

Q. I heard from a friend that it is possible to write to an unreported prisoner in the Far East through the Red Cross.

A. No, it is not possible. What may have been meant is that it is possible to send a Red Cross message every three months to unreported civilians in the Far East.

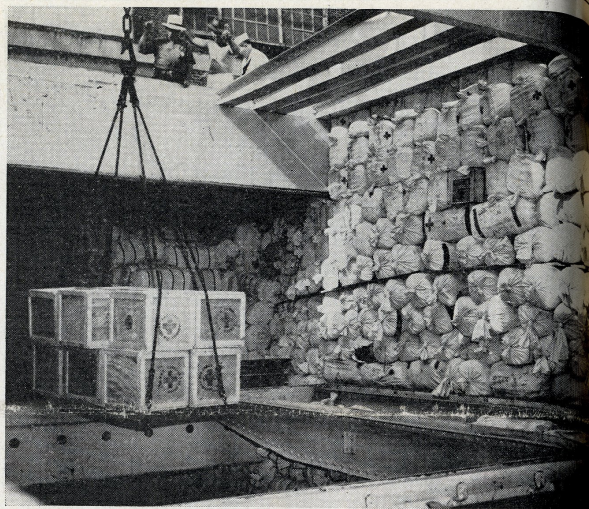
Special Services for Prisoners

(Continued from page 10)

While prisoners who have lost a limb are given temporary replacements by their captors, both the British Red Cross Society and the American Red Cross are interested in providing their respective nationals with the best permanent mechanical limbs as soon as possible. To accomplish this, arrangements have been made through the International Committee for a Swiss Orthopedic Mission to visit all camps and measure British and American prisoners of war for artificial limbs. These artificial limbs, which are manufactured in Switzerland at the expense of the American Red Cross in the case of American prisoners, are then taken to the camps by the Orthopedic Mission for fitting.

DISPOSING OF EARTH

At one of the largest camps for American prisoners of war in Germany the authorities have refused to permit the men to plant the vegetable and garden seeds sent by the Red Cross. The reason given for this order was that the cultivation of a vegetable garden offered a convenient means of disposing of earth which men accumulate when digging escape tunnels under the barbed wire.



Loading Canadian and American Red Cross supplies for prisoners of war on the M. S. Travancore at Philadelphia in July. The Travancore, a sister ship of the M. S. Mangalore, which joined the Red Cross fleet last January, is the latest addition to the fleet.

BACK ISSUES OF "LIFE"

Last March *Life* magazine asked its readers to save back copies of *Life* for returning prisoners of war. Reader response to *Life's* appeal was very generous, but many of the readers who have kept back copies cannot continue to hold them for lack of storage space.

If families of prisoners of war who

have requested back copies of *Life* would like to have complete files beginning with the December 8, 1941 issue, they may get them from some *Life* subscriber who is cooperating in this project. *Life* will arrange for the shipment. Inquiries or requests should be addressed to *Life* Back Copies, 9 Rockefeller Plaza, New York 20, New York.

Verfangenen Gazette

THE UNIVERSITY
OF TEXAS

OCT 17 1944

**SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT TO
PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN**

Published by the American National Red Cross for the Relatives of American Prisoners of War and Civilian Internees

September 1944

Delmar T. Spivey, senior
officer at Stalag Luft III,
to the editor of PRISONERS OF
BULLETIN a complete file of the
Angewandte Gazette from October
1943 to April 9, 1944.

published, by hand and typewriter, three times weekly, with a Sunday supplement of colored cartoons, by African airmen—prisoners at the Segregation Compound. When sending the paper, Colonel Spivey wrote:

credit for this paper is given to Lt. Ronald T. Delaney, who, under most adverse circumstances as material and subject matter, has persistence and initiative to a commendable degree.

There are some 4,500 young American airmen at Luft III, and the articles and cartoons in the *Gazette* throw a vivid light on camp conditions and on how the men there are temporarily adapting their lives to an atmosphere that must be completely alien to them.

It is unfortunately a physical impossibility to make the complete file available to all families of the men at Luft III, and to the many other families of American prisoners of war who would surely find it intensely interesting. PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN, however, has prepared this special supplement made up entirely

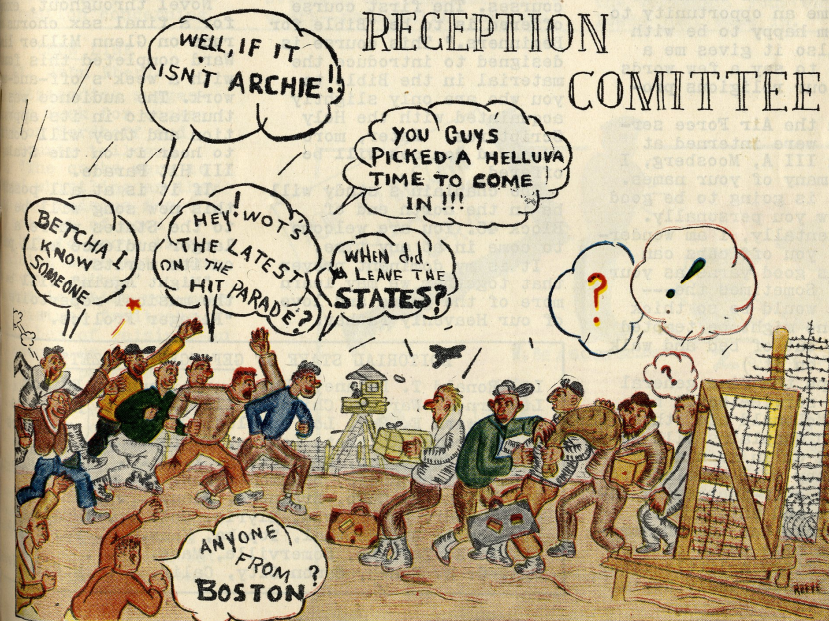
of extracts, drawings, and cartoons, taken more or less at random, from the *Gefangenen Gazette*. No editing has been done here, but, of course, every issue has to be approved by the German commander before it goes on the camp bulletin board.

Stalag Luft III, which, like all other camps for airmen, is under the control of the Luftwaffe, is probably the best established camp for Americans in Germany. Enlisted men in the Stalags, and especially on work detachments, have much less opportunity for study and play than officer-prisoners have.

GILBERT REDFERN, *Editor*

Prisoners of War Bulletin

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